

In the Claims:

1. (previously presented) A recombinant human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV-1), wherein the natural signal sequence (NSS) of the HIV-1 envelope glycoprotein gp120 of the virus is replaced with a signal sequence selected from the group consisting of mellitin signal sequence (MSS) and interleukin 3 signal sequence (ILSS).

Claims 2-5 (canceled)

2. (previously presented) The HIV-1 of claim 1 wherein the retrovirus is avirulent.

3. (previously presented) The HIV-1 of claim ² ~~6~~ wherein the retrovirus is rendered avirulent by deletion of the *nef* gene.

Claims 8-30 (canceled)

4. (previously presented) The HIV-1 of claim 1 wherein the MSS is shown as SEQ ID NO 9.

5. (previously presented) The HIV-1 of claim 1 wherein the ILSS is shown as SEQ ID NO 10.

6. (previously presented) The HIV-1 of claim ⁴ ~~31~~ wherein the retrovirus is avirulent.

7. (previously presented) The HIV-1 of claim ⁵ ~~32~~ wherein the retrovirus is avirulent.

8. (previously presented) The HIV-1 of claim ⁶ ~~33~~ wherein the retrovirus is rendered avirulent by deletion of the *nef* gene.

9. (previously presented) The HIV-1 of claim ⁷ ~~34~~ wherein the retrovirus is rendered avirulent by deletion of the *nef* gene.

10. (currently amended) A vaccine immunogenic composition comprising an effective amount of the HIV-1 of claim ⁶ ~~35~~.

11. (currently amended) An vaccine immunogenic composition comprising an effective amount of the HIV-1 of claim ⁷ ~~36~~.

12. (currently amended) An vaccine immunogenic composition comprising an effective amount of the HIV-1 of claim ⁸ ~~37~~.

13. (currently amended) An vaccine immunogenic composition comprising an effective amount of the HIV-1 of claim ⁹ ~~38~~.